

The Handshake

As One That Serves

Issue No33

Winter - Spring

Feb 1995

The 19th National AOTS Convention

to be held at

Ramada Inn, 11 Bay Ridge Rd. Bellville, Ontario

August 11th -12th- 13th, 1995

The Convention Theme

"The Heart of AOTS"

will be presented by

Jeff Dejonge

Wellington United Church
Wellington



This event will include a weekend of learning, sharing, inspiration, fellowship and entertainment. The program will cater to church men, spouses and family members.

President's Report

Gentlemen: I come to you with hat in hand, seeking your sympathy and support as we at National move to assist our Youth. Yes, the Youth in your church and mine.

Our goal of bringing them into our congregations will entail an effort from every one of us. First we must care about them and show them respect.

There is great need for understanding of our Youth of today. The conditions that they are enduring is of a dimension that we older men can hardly appreciate. Gangs fighting gangs, initiation into these gangs is something not even to think about, some are so horrendous! In some cases a certain theft has to be carried out and even murder, at random

is rumoured now to be the new thrill. In the eyes of the world the Youth are "going to hell in a hand basket"

These young people have so much more difficult conditions to work under than any of us had at that age. Life is not so simple with new technology constantly changing bringing the world with all its killings and evils right into our living rooms via T.V. There are drugs, forced prostitution and on and on, but you know what I am talking about.

But it is not this way with the majority of our Youth, they really want to love and to be loved and this is where we can participate.

First for you to just care about this situation enough to want to change things is a step in the right direction. To see where you can help physically if

possible, but if that can't be then possibly you and your club could assist in some financial way. Sure you can find out what they are doing, help even in some small way. Remember the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. The system says if you don't use it you lose it, and this applies to talents as well as anything else.

I ask you to write me concerning your Youth, their needs, and what can be done about the difficulty they are experiencing.

Do it now!
Why wait for spring?

God bless each one of you
John Carswell



The Handshake

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Deadlines

April 30-Jan 30-Aug 15

Fax- Fax- Fax

Donations

Lorne Whitmore

Oak Bay United AOTS

Trinity United AOTS

South Burnaby AOTS

Gil Flatta

Harrow AOTS Club.

Bibles N' Prayers

National Prayer Breakfast

Ottawa-May 26 1994

Perhaps one of the Highlights during my term of office as President Elect was having the opportunity of attending the National Prayer Breakfast for our National Leaders held in Ottawa's Parliament buildings in May. I sat in awe with representation from sixty countries around the world. Different nationalities, different cultures and perhaps different faiths joining together as one body for a few hours together.

The Theme for the breakfast was "Hope" as this has been designated as the "Year of the Family". In listening to many different speakers and experiencing the fellowship that was so warm and loving I had a different feeling toward this governing body of leaders in this great country. One couldn't help but feel proud to be a citizen of this fair land.

The theme speaker was a sister from Montreal, "Delores Coulombe, S.G.M who



shared a life story of herself which was shattering, being abused, not wanted, and unloved she found herself in a convent where she remained. Her story held us all spellbound and sent us away feeling very fortunate in all that we have.

Three things stood out for me during the speeches

1. Seek Justice - Try and be fair to all concerned.
2. Love Tenderly - Perhaps the most difficult - to love the unfortunate to love the unloveable
3. To walk humble: Be careful not to step on those who block our way, but pick them up and join together to form a strong force as we strive toward our goal.

It was a memorable experience, to be at this gathering, and an added joy to have son Jim in attendance with me.

To Lyle Vanclief M.P. and good friend I am deeply indebted, and forever grateful for the invitation. Thanks Lyle signed Craig E Watson
President Elect

The North American Conference of Church Men's Staff (NACCMS)

Report by Ken Lane

Purpose

The NACCMS meeting is a gathering of staff of the churches and organizations who are working for Christian Fellowship and spiritual uplift in a ministry for men. Members at the meeting learn what other churches are accomplishing in their ministry for men and allows for a sharing of resource and experience in working for men in

particular.

Participants

Are representative of most of the major churches and men's work organization. Of the twenty denominations and societies in attendance they were all of the well known protestant faiths and included two representatives from the Forum of European Christian Men.

Theme

The "Paridigm Shift" as it relates to ministering to 1. The Suburban Male (Yuppie). 2. The Divorced Man with children, 3. The African American Male, 4. The Addictive Male, 5, Attracting and Holding the single man, and 6. Challenging men through Mass Rallies.

Member Presentation

Each Conference member gave a verbal presentation of what his church/organization was doing in their ministries to the needs of men. Although AOTS is small in numbers in comparison to may groups, we are active in many of the same areas of concern.

Presentations of Societies

The Society of St. Andrews who operate "Meals for Millions". The distribution of surplus agricultural products world wide. Mennonite Men "Church Builders". Go into an area which can not afford to build a church and erect one within 48 hours. Promise keepers. "Promise Keepers" who emphasize the large stadium rallies with six such events attracting some 330,000 men in 1994.

World Conference 1999.

To be held jointly with the European Forum of Christian Men and NACCMS in Jerusalem.

Conclusion

The annual NACCMS Conference certainly enables one to see the larger view of the need of men and helps you learn what others are doing to meet the need and so serve their Church and Christ.

AOTS Queries
New Club Information etc
Write to
Ken Lane
44 Paris Drive
Elliot Lake, Ont. P5A 2L9



Central Regional AOTS Round Up



1954

May 5-6-7
at Geneva Park

1995

Theme
Meeting the Challenge of Change



Theme Speaker
The Very Rev, Bruce McLeod
BA, Ma,Thd,LLD, DD
Former Moderator United
Church of Canada



* Attention Dads and Granddads: The sons and grandsons you are bringing will be a part of an Official Youth Program. Program by: YMCA Geneva Park & the Rev. Jan Bush of Newtonbrook

Bellefair has

Withdrawal Symptoms ?

The baseball fans of Bellefair United who go to see their beloved Blue Jays in groups of 80 plus were denied their baseball season as was indeed the whole of North America. Did they sit around and feel sorry for themselves ? "They most certainly did not," says the Bellefair AOTS News letter through their editor Harry Wolfraim. Instead they threw themselves in to fixing up the church. They refinished the floors in the sanctuary and gave it a new paint job.

Teamwork can move mountains and CHURCH PEWS

The men hustled the pews out, the floor was refinished and then one evening the pews were taken in again and attached to the floor. A few sore muscles were more than compensated for with the fellowship of guys working for a

common cause. It is a wonderful experience. Another group cleaned out and painted the organ loft in readiness for it's new replacement. Next came the lower auditorium. The stage floor was repainted and new stage curtains were hung. The UCW paid \$1800.00 for them with the AOTS chipping in with \$600.00.

Maple Syrup and Coloring Books

The books cover Christmas and Easter and are available year round. There is still some Maple Syrup left to sell

Oranges and Grapefruit .

This is an on going fall project where the club takes orders in advance imports the fruit and then distributes it.

Hats off to Harry Wofraim

For keeping us posted about Bellefair, the Toronto AOTS Conference and it's member clubs and most recently the Central Canada Region AOTS Council.

Toronto Conference News

The Toronto Conference hosted two events in the fall of 1994 neither of which has been reported by the Handshake. They are 1. The Central Canada Steering Committee with Keith Arner the Central Vice President of National in the chair. This meeting and its deliberations can be found in the National News Pages 4-5. 2.The Toronto Conference Men's Club Rally the report of which can be found below.

Toronto Conference

Layton Stewart the Toronto Rep. to National reported that the Don Mills Club say " they don't hear from the National"* and he wonders if other clubs are not having National material distributed. Perhaps the club contact person is no longer active or is not aware that his job is to disseminate the material. Toronto Conference is planning the 1995 Round up (see this page). There is to be a Fall Rally on Oct 23. (report below) at King United Church . President Al raised the question "Is our purpose to recruit new AOTS members or to reach out to men in fellowship" Keith McFayden commented that Jesus reached out and people followed him. We should do the same

* The Handshakes records show that the Don Mills club receives 15 copies of the Handshake of which at least four pages are devoted exclusively to communications from National.

Toronto Conference Rally

Reports a disappointing turnout of only 25 AOTS men. The program called for 8 discussion groups with the expectation of each delegate attending only two. A change in format saw each of the speakers as a member of a panel with each making a presentation.

As our reporter Harry Wolfraim observed " *the change in format produced a wonderful afternoon which we will long remember. To learn first hand what is going on out there but is really right in our midst, from inspired and really dedicated leaders, was an uplifting experience. Supper was followed by an opportunity to quiz the speakers.*"



1949 **B.C. Round Up** 1995

Cordova Bay **March 4**



Rev. G.E Mc Mechan- Theme Speaker
Rights-Responsibilities-Opportunities

*Jerry was born in Mission B.C. and grew up in the North Okanagan. He served as an air frame mechanic in the RCAF both in Canada and in England. After the war he attended UBC and Union College and was ordained in as a United Church minister in 1953. Had pastoral charges at Faserview, McBride, Grand Forks, Sumas all in B.C. In Ontario at pastoral charge of Moorefield- Wesley at Brantford. Final charge was Centennial United in Victoria. He retired in 1977 but served as a "Retired Helper" with visitations and relief preaching under Rev. Tom Simm. After some fourteen years of filling in Jim re-retired after the Call of Rev. John McKibbon. in June of 1994.

The Round Up this year is the hosted by the men of of Cordova Bay United. The program will be handled by the Provincial Council of AOTS. Mainlanders will be pleased to know that Cordova Bay is just 20 minutes from the Ferry Terminal it will be no problem to catch the 7 p.m. sailing.

National Life Member presenting a club Life Membership to long time AOTSER Bill Powell.



From the minutes.

Out going Secretary Ron Matthews has supplied us not only with the club's minutes but a complete roster of the 1995 executive and a month by month report on the clubs activities for 1994. Believe me they have been busy busy. look for more from Duncan in the May issue.

Attention all club secretaries.

Ron Matthew of Duncan has alerted the incoming secretary Jan Mandagg about our lines of communication. Welcome aboard Jan. Would that all secretaries would do the same ? So you are the club secretary once again ! So keep those minutes coming. Make your poor old editors day.

South Burnaby

Financial Statement 1994

It may seem like only a statement of money in and money out but in reality it reads to tells us of well planned projects and successful social events to be followed by generous dispensation of the mommy raised. In all \$3700 was given to the following charities ,individuals and organizations. etc. There is no measure of the fellowship enjoyed.
Continued next page.

Duncan

Headliners

Amongst the flood of news from Duncan were three headliners courtesy of Don Morton via the "Cowichan News" The first was a 4x5" photo over the caption

"What Haggis Again"?

Alex prepares to deliver the death blow to the fatted haggis at the AOTS men's club Burn's supper at Duncan United Church. More than 150 people attended Saturday's event, the club's 27th annual supper in honour of Poet Robbie Burns' birthday. The Scottish Bard would be delighted that they turned a tidy profit of \$500.00

"Fish Hatchery spawns plenty of tales"

So read the next headliner under which is told that 30 AOTS men took an afternoon tour of the new \$5 million Vancouver Island Fish Hatchery.

And finally the headliner

"Speakers shares army's message"

The Salvation Army that is, who for the 12th year in a row were the guests and program of the Duncan club.

Other Photographs.

One shot had National President John Carswell presenting a book "Seven Values to Live By" to the new President Des Morris with the 1st vice president Ron Matthews and Immediate past President Allan Taylor looking on. By the way Ron Matthews is the author of the presentation booklet. Sorry guys our computer technology was unable to come up with a printable image but look for the photo at the Archival display at the Round Up. Hey it was the lighting and distance which did not do justice to your handsome faces and 'er your facial hair.

The other Photograph (seen top right) has Norm Carter(left) himself a

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Sent two men to Banff Conference
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 Operation Eyesight
 National AOTS Hospital Project
 Scouts of Canada
 Alcohol Drug Research
 SBUC CE Committee of Youth Work
 SBUC-Overseas relief Rwanda
 David Foster Foundation
 Seeds of Hope Africa
 First United Food Bank
 Observer on Tape-AOTS
 Handshake
 Salvation Army
 Burnaby Christmas Bureau

The club has 50 members who are pulling together to Serve God and Man

South Burnaby has an on going "Charlie Burritt Scholarship Fund" which supports 2 sometimes 4 deserving students each year.

Vancouver Island District Council

This council meets 4 times a year with every second one being a combined meeting of the Island and Provincial Council. They are under the capable hands of Chairman Bruce Martin who is also a member at large of National. This year the Island council is organizing the B.C. Round Up and are again sponsoring the Victoria Presbytery Annual Picnic at Camp Pringle on Shawnigan Lake. The four member clubs of Duncan, Centennial, Oak Bay and Esquimalt had reports in the Council's latest minutes. Duncan who has reported elsewhere in the Handshake. Oak Bay who has been meeting only at the executive level because they figuratively do not have a roof over their head. (Dry Rot we understand). They expect to be back in operation in a month or two. Centennial still meets as a club and support is being directed to assist exiled Angolians to be educated and equipped to "make a difference" when peace comes to their homeland and they can return.

Langley AOTS

From the Minutes.

A yard sale was held in Oct 94 with Mike Prueter in charge. Visited men at First United in White Rock, B.C. Plan to visit AOTS Club in Chilliwack in Feb 95. December Meeting was the Annual Turkey Dinner for the congregation. Applied for the use of a corner of the old church library for use by the AOTS. Plan their annual spaghetti dinner for first Saturday after Easter. A donation of \$200.00 to the Langley Stepping Stone Society. \$600.00 dollars to the Christian Children's fund of Canada. Delivered Christmas Hampers. \$500.00 to Langley Church Scholarship fund.

B.C. Conference AOTS

This council meets on a monthly basis and alternating between Langley and Victoria on Vancouver Island. It also acts as the lower mainland district council. Two years ago it formed the basis of the National Convention Committee. Each year it plans for and conducts the B.C. Round Up and Celebration of Faith which will be held at Camp Pringle on May 26-27-29 this year.

Chilliwack

Thanks to the efforts of Dick Haythorne President, and the Reverends Bob McMullen and Bob Wallace this club has a loyal membership of about 18 men. Its primary function is fellowship for the men but on occasion it supports church projects like the congregational picnics and bazaars etc. It sponsored the play "For Ninevah's Sake" which toured Western Canada. Meeting on the third Wednesday each month its members enjoy devotionals, sing songs and guest speakers who have shared their trips to Israel and Northern British Columbia and other exotic spots. National officers drop in from time to time. The club is kept informed as to men's activities such as the Banff Conference, the B.C. Round Up, and the Celebration of Faith through the Handshake and the active promotion by Dick Haythorne.

Walter Lawrence Mayea

To the singing of "You'll Never Stand Alone" the AOTS Men's Choir paid tribute to their fellow chorister and AOTS member Walter Mayea. Walter came to Duncan in 1908 and was one of the builders of that community. A veteran of WW II, a member of the Canadian Legion, a charter member of the Eagles, and a former elder of Duncan United, Walter had a diversified career amongst which was the driving of Duncan's first Taxi Cab and ending his working days at the age of 70 as a driver of logging trucks.

Alberta

Banff Conference

The Banff Conference with 283 men was a great event with our former moderator Stan McKay supplying a lot of food for our spiritual thought and well being. The music was great and the scenery fantastic and it was inspiring to see the men experiencing a spiritual uplift together. Our AOTS display attracted a lot of attention and our new videos were well received. Several starter kits have now been forwarded to concerned men and Clergy and we hope that New Clubs will result.

Banff Conference 95

Speaker
 Rev Bill Phipps
 Theme
 "Fear Not"
 Dates
 Oct 20-21-22

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Fiscal Responsibility

Problems-Solutions Proposals

Under its self imposed terms of reference the Handshake can only report National's efforts to achieve a balance budget as instructed to do at the annual meeting in Langley in August of 1993. There follows a brief report on what progress has been made and what solutions have been proposed.

1. Balancing the Budget

Put forth by an expanded financial committee a balanced budget for 1994 was announced at the annual meeting in Regina last September. This was due to a fifty percent reduction in travelling expenses, a careful selection of meeting places to reduce the overall travelling distances, methods of travel such as by car pooling where possible and billeting of the delegates at the location of the meeting. This same committee considered the reduction of the number of meetings and different types such as the electronic based types of meetings by computer or telephone. They also considered expenditure cut backs and have circulated a document asking for consideration of two possible plans known as A and B. Various opinions have been expressed and will be reported at the executive meeting at Calgary and then at the Annual Meeting at Bellville.

2. Regionalization .

The AOTS Central Canada Steering Committee has been formed and has had two meetings. In the chair is the Central Vice President Keith Arner. They have circulated a resolution to the National Committee for action at the Annual meeting in Bellville. This committee is based on what was the Ontario Round Up Committee which has been augmented by representation from the Bay of Quinte, Hamilton, London, Manitou, Montreal/Ottawa and Toronto Conference AOTS and any National AOTS Officers resident in the area.

It is stated that this new regional concept is not a creation of a new hierarchy but an expansion of the Western, Central and

Eastern concept. It is predicted that it will reduce the number of national meetings, reduce travelling expenses, and administration costs. The following statement of purpose sums up there line of thinking.

"If AOTS is to survive and prosper as a National Christian United Church Men's movement , assuming we agree that men need the Church, and that the Church needs the men, changes are imperative. The question facing AOTS , you and me, is very basic: are we going to pull back, cutting expenses, having to make do with virtual handouts, or are we : 'Pioneers for Christ with vision and a burning desire to take up the Cross for Christ and build a men's organization worth passing on to our sons and grandsons?'"

Walk The Second Mile

Over the signature of our Executive Director Ken Lane the following analysis of our fiscal plight and a possible solution is presented for your perusal. The letter states that it has been put before the National Executive and adopted for implementation.

The National AOTS has long been dissatisfied with our current efforts to be "an Arm of the Church" reaching out to all men in Christian fellowship and service for Christ. There have been several areas in which we have been hampered by the lack sufficient funds to properly promote AOTS and/or to implement programs dedicated to our ministry for men. We, at National, depend on the continued support of all clubs, both in their active participation and financial backing, for any present and future projects and programs to promote Christian service in our organization. The present somewhat recessional atmosphere in the general economy of our country has further affected the efforts of National AOTS. We have had to spend far too much time and planning on the every day maintenance of our the necessary energy to promote and expand our organization of Christian service to every pastoral charge in Canada, that

should be our aim !

We have the best "product" in the world to promote, but truthfully we are not doing the job very successfully with our present planning and restricted financial situation. We must move forward, and we can and must make a positive promotion of As One That Serves if the individual club will support Walk The Second Mile proposal.

Walk The Second Mile

Is a joint proposal of a Past National President Cyril Locke of Newfoundland and Reg Cooper of Toronto a past Central Vice President. This "Walk the Second Mile" suggests that every AOTS Club in Canada be asked to hold one (or more) project in their community specifically for AOTS, and then profits of such a project be sent to National for the purpose of expansion for our organization.

The mechanics of the project suggest every thing from a pancake breakfast to a spaghetti diner from a garage sale to a craft sale.. It is also suggested that if only 50 % of the clubs participated there would be an opportunity to develop more spiritual life resources and the like. The concluding paragraph is a good summation of the spirit of Waking the Second Mile

Guys, the sky is the limit in our outreach with AOTS if we are really committed to go that ahead in the future. To stand still is to retreat! Let us step out with a positive step and "Walk the Second Mile ! We can all walk in His steps, if we have the commitment to follow Him!

The Hall of Honour

Life Memberships in the
National Association of AOTS
Clubs have been presented to
Maurice Wright
of St. Pauls
Bud Maxwell of Kingston Rd
AOTS in Toronto
Tom Murray of Langley
United B.C.



Observer on Tape

Lady of the Tapes Retires

Alta MacLean has filed her last tape for the Observer on Tape Project. This announcement comes as no surprise as our octogenarian chooses to turn her task over to some one else. Her fan club, who bask in her friendly voice have dubbed her "The Lady of the Tapes" She will be remembered by her voice alone for she uses the female prerogative of not having her photograph published. We know she had about 400 listeners at any given time and they did appreciate her efforts . We the AOTS men of Canada who say one great big **thank you** grant you a Life Membership in our Heart of Hearts.

Alta would be the first to say "Hey I didn't do it all alone you know!" Knowing this the Handshake has lifted from its files a report on the " Observer on Tape Project" and reproduced it in its entirety and called it:

A Tribute to Alta MacLean and Friends.

As you are probably aware, the Observer-on-Tape Project run by the Queen Street AOTS Men's Club sends the magazine on tape to print handicapped people across Canada. This project is growing every year and we send on an average of 327 packages per month. In 1989 over 11,00 tapes were copied, mailed, returned, erased, and used again. The busiest months were October and November when 359 packages were mailed.

Subscribers

We currently have 439 subscribers from across Canada- 416 individuals and 23 church groups or institutions which share the tapes. Women outnumbered men 338 to 78 and 344 of these people live in private homes while 72 reside in retirement centres or nursing homes. Several of our subscribers move to Florida or Texas for the winter and have their tapes sent to them there and we really are international since one subscriber copies our tapes and sends them to his mother who has returned to Scotland to live but likes to keep up with

*United church news. .
Subscribers are from various provinces as follows: Newfoundland-7; Prince Edward Island-5; Nova Scotia-20; New Brunswick-20; Quebec-6; Ontario-205; Manitoba-38; Saskatchewan-50; Alberta-37; British Columbia-54. Not all subscribers get their package back in time for the next mailing hence our average of 327 per month. The service is advertised in the Observer.*

The program requires many volunteer hours.

Each month Alta Maclean receives an advance copy of the observer and reads it on to three ninety minute tapes. She also describes the pictures and really brings the articles to life. Armando Del Gobbo, Chairman of the project, introduces each month's set with greetings from AOTS and information on the project.

Key People

Low Cole, assisted by Don Tompkins, erase the tapes and records the new issue on about 1000 tapes each month and then takes them to the back door of our Post Office. Barney Freeman does the heavy work of picking up the large bags of tapes at the post office and carrying them to our office on the second floor of Servage House. He empties the packages and files them alphabetically on our shelves. He also makes more copies as needed for subscribers who return tapes after the main mailing.

Key people Assisted by others

Of course these key people are assisted by other members of AOTS, our Ladies Auxiliary and other men of the church. Nancy Bebee helps Barney pick up the tapes and sort the mail, Joan Tompkins, our secretary, helps with administration and correspondence and does our typing, Irene Cole, Earla McConnell, Bert McConnell, Deon Kish, Ed

Cromwell, Eric Bolton and Rick Dale help pack the tapes for mailing at the beginning of each month. Bert McConnel is also the project Treasurer who receives all donations and mails receipts to the donors.

Satisfaction

All volunteers derive a great deal of satisfaction from their participation in this project. Each month, hand written notes that obviously required a great deal of effort, are tucked into the tapes as they are returned. Subscribers appreciate all of the volunteers who make it possible for them to keep up with what is happening in our church and they usually add glowing comments on the special way Alta does the Reading. Alta answers all the mail she receives and exchanges private tapes with some "Pen pals among our subscribers.

Compiled by Barney Nancy Don and Joan

Hospital Project
With a payment of \$4000.00 we have now completed our donation of \$10,000 for the new Incubator for the Bella Bella Hospital
Well done AOTS !

Habitat: The habitat project sponsored by the Winnipeg District Council has reduced it's deficit to \$13,000 Receipts will be issued for donations with the assurance that every dollar goes to retire the fund. Donations may be mailed to :
Ernest Orpin
17 Neptune Bay
Winnipeg Manitoba
R3T 0Z6

Convention 95 Belleville Ont. August 11-12-13

Type of Accommodation	Cost	No Overnight Accomodation
Single	\$300.00	\$300.00
Couple	\$425.00	\$425.00



AOTS and General Council

General Council

Date August 19 -28, 1994

Place Fergus Ontario

Summary: Conference AOTS selects a member agreeable to attend General Council as a commissioner.

Note: This is a significant breakthrough for AOTS. An opportunity for each Conference to send an AOTS Member to our Church's highest court

Let's get on it.

Keith Arner

Harry Page Dow of St. Andrews United AOTS of Moose Jaw

Harry the long time editor of "The Menu" passed away in Hospital on Nov. 28th 1994. In the June 94 issue of the Menu he wrote "Since Gord Night did such a fine job of filling in for me while I was out of circulation I fully expected to be out of a job when I returned. However, it seems they are going to let me have another try at it. The last issue before he died is dated Nov 11 1994 and whether or not he actively participated in that edition he was listed as the Editor with Gord Night as his assistant. Harry along with Bob Taylor started the Menu 37 years ago and between the two of them put out 300 issues. The Menu of course is without question the longest running AOTS club news letter in the 72 year history of our organization. In his obituary it is mentioned that Harry loved AOTS and we in turn love him in memory of his many years of faithful service.

Montreal-Ottawa

Dwight Reveler has spoken at churches but at Prebytery has been asked who he represents (How many people or clubs/ Most clubs in Ottawa area.

From the Menu Of St Andrew's AOTS Moose Jaw Sakatchewan

Since the last issue of the Handshake four issues of the Menu have come in. They reported on their Annual Garage Sale, their June wind up which included par three golf and supper at the exhibition grounds and a Chuck Wagon Dinner. Besides donating \$500.00 to Camp Campernaum they sponsored ten first year campers at \$25,00 a pop. They are checking out the feasibility of sponsoring Camp Capernaum Supper in 95. To the Congregational picnic \$100.00 to the Hometown Fair some volunteers. Then there is meals on wheels for a week at a time every now and then. Sometime maybe they will take the time to fill us in on one of their Fowl Suppers. Oh yes they have a sick and visting committee that keeps track of those in need of a visit. We hope that if Gord Knight takes over as editor he will keep us on the mailing list.

Wilmar Heights AOTS Scarborough

From the Toronto Conference Minutes :Report of successful Ladies Night, a fruit selling project, a Metropolitan Silver Band Concert and a Sweet Adeline Concert. Glad to hear that Lorne Thornely is out to church again. Hope that his successor will keep Harry Wolfrain supplied with club and executive minutes so the Handshake can keep tabs on Wilmar Heights.

Hamilton Conference

Like Dwight Reveler of Ottawa Montreal Howard Wills feels like a "loner" in his area. He thinks there is some potential for growth. Some churches have independent clubs or the men meet occasionally for breakfast but do not seem to be interested in further attachment. Various people in the 30-45 bracket, where both spouses work and are very busy, might prefer a type of couples club rather than separate gender meetings, if they prefer club life at all.

Howard feels the new video may help in promoting AOTS. There is a new minister (female) in his church, St. Pauls, who hopefully can excite young people.

Bay of Quinty:

Ronald Welsh Reporting

Ronald Welsh feels that clubs are very warm and close because of working together to plan the National Convention at Belleville in 1995. There was a fall Rally in Belleville on Nov. 5th 1994. The Observer on Tape program sends out 400 pages per edition. A new reader has been found to replace the former faithful volunteer (Alta MacLean) who resigned (see story page7). Peterborough sponsored a housing project. Ron has leads on two clubs where there seems to be interest in joining AOTS. He emphasizes we can't work alone we must do things together.

Park St. United AOTS Chatham Ontario

Park Street along with 6 other Kent County AOTS clubs hosted the Robert Wood Singers from the St Catherine's area of Ontario. This concert raised \$1300.00 for Kenesserie Youth Camp. Park Street hosted a dinner for the church's choir members who had given over 25 years of their time to this group. Members were very busy in the Fall with a Church Work Bee, the Annual Roast Beef Dinner and the church Bazaar. The club finished their year with its Annual December Christmas Dinner for 100 clients and workers of Mental Health Kent. The club has had a very busy last seven months but took time out to enjoy their Annual Summer Barbeque at the Garlick's, as well as the fellowship time at our monthly breakfast meetings.

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Unique-AOTS Club Comber, Ont.

The Comber United Church Pastoral cover three points in the rural area of South western Ontario, near Windsor, Rev. Karen Hilfman-Millson is the minister in a village with a large Roman Catholic population.

After discussing AOTS men's work with the AOTS Conference representative, Rev. Karen arranged a meeting of the men at St. Andrews United Church on Dec 1, 1991. This meeting brought twenty-five men together for fellowship and discussion on forming an AOTS club. On March 29, 1992 the inaugural meeting of a new AOTS club was held, beginning with a 11:15 A.M. church service followed by a country brunch, presentation of the Charter and installation of officers.

President, William McLounie describes the activities of the club, "In January 1993 the men of the Comber Roman Catholic Church and Comber United Church Pastoral charge AOTS men's group initiated joint monthly meetings. The result has been an opportunity for Christian men of different faiths to share fellowship and service. The goal of our group is not one of fund raising for our respective churches but to pursue a common purpose. The men work together on information gatherings and events for the community i.e. family camping, Amnesty International, teenage crisis information, social justice, and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Our monthly breakfast meetings, the third Sunday of every month at 7:30 A.M., strengthen our friendship and common spiritual values."

Comments by the Central Vice President It has been a real pleasure to work with Comber men and share their ecumenical faith and true Christian fellowship. Two men of the Harrow club and myself enjoyed this fellowship again on January 15, 1995, and we wish them God's richest blessing in their unique Christian Witness.

L. Keith Arner
Central Vice President

Tom Murray



Tom calls Vegerville, Alberta his birth place. He spent the first four years of his life in a small log cabin with a sod

roof. It would absorb a three day rain, unfortunately, it rained inside for the next two days. Providentially for his mother, the cabin burned down in a prairie fire. Neighbours got together and in a very short time they moved into a two story log home with a shingled roof. House raising bees allowed the pioneers to show they cared.

After finishing grade twelve in the French speaking town of St. Paul he went to the Camrose Normal School and became a teacher "First Class" in 1934. Tom taught for six years in rural schools before joining the Air Force. After 4 1/2 years of service he came back to Edmonton to start university.

In 1946 he married Joan Hartley. In 1946 he received the B.Ed. degree, and taught four years as vice-principal of Beisiker High School. He then accepted a principleship in Red Deer. He served 8 years on the Provincial Curriculum Committee, writing an optional course in reading in the Junior High and another in literature in the high school. In 1955 Tom received the M.Ed. degree from the U.of A. He spent 19 very happy years as Principal of River Glen School. Then due to a crisis in the County Office, Tom was asked to take over administrative duties there as a "trouble shooter". After nearly four years in the County office, Tom retired in Jan. 1975. He was awarded a life membership in the Alberta Teacher Association.

He moved to an acreage between Langley and Aldergrove. There he met Frank Maclean and Bill Reid at the old United Church. They recruited him into the AOTS and soon Tom was very much involved helping to set up and move into the new church, He became an elder, president of the local AOTS (2yrs) then member of the District Council.

In 1979, when Charles Lucas

became ill Tom took over as chairman of the Vancouver and District AOTS Council. In 1980 he attended the General Council in Halifax as a Commissioner.

In 1981, Tom became the first combined president of the U.C. Men and B.C. Provincial AOTS. He was a Commissioner at the Montreal General Council in 1982.

He had his first stroke in November 15, 1982 and the second on July 7, 1986. Consequently Tom has learned to walk three times and he says he hasn't got it right yet.

Tom is proud of his certificate of Appreciation from the National Association of U.C. Men's Clubs .His Life Membership in Langley AOTS and his Life Membership in the National AOTS Association.

His friends in AOTS are proud to have served under his leadership and most importantly proud to have shared our faith with him.

The Handshake Speaks

My editor is happy that so many of you have written to him and sad that his friends in the Maritimes and Newfoundland seemed to have forgotten him. His boss John Carswell, has promised to open the lines of communications with the above regions so maybe you will read about them in the next issue.

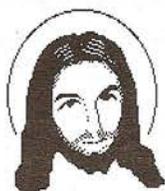
My editor would like to do more profiles like the one on this page but you have to tell him about your AOTS friend who served so well and deserves to be patted on the back.

Hey did you know I'm over sixty years old? I got my start as a club newsletter and made it to the National level..

Do you read me? If not why not? If you say yes God Bless You !. If you say no drop me a line and tell us why.

See you in May.

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Easter and AOTS

Over the years Easter has become more of a festive and celebrated holiday season. But what is happening? Fewer and fewer are knowledgeable of Easter's true celebration: Christ's sacrifices to give everyone the gift of everlasting life. Gentlemen, let me emphasize it is vital that we AOTS Laymen, men of God, make every effort to teach the youth of today of Christ's priceless atonement for our sins.

We read this in the book of Matthew 19:14 "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Now Jesus was tired from travelling and His many speaking engagements and the disciples with him did not want the children bothering Jesus and so they tried to turn them away. But Jesus heard the commotion and the disappointment of the children: He opened His arms and beckoned them to come immediately. The little ones climbed onto Jesus' knee and others sat near His feet, and they listened very attentively to everything He had to say.

Many of us, as children listened to our parents read those good old bible passages, Yes, God loves children and

throughout the the Scrip He strongly stresses that parents should "Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all of their life." (Prov.22:6 Let us never forget; that children have a great eagerness to learn and their innocence gives them a strong faith which adults often envy.

All United Church AOTS Men should be active in introducing the word of God to children. We all know that even a child can be eager to learn and know more about the Word of God. Why not take the opportunity to deepen their spiritual life and promote your christian fellowship?

The Bible provides a source of well being and hope for children. And, as little ones; they are our hope for the future, it is urgent that they are given hope for today. Please do your part in revealing the resurrection of Jesus Christ to the lost children of our towns and cities today.

Here is a couple of replies from a Sunday School class that was asked the question "What does Easter mean to you?"

"Easter to me is a sad time. My Lord was crucified on a cross and then buried in a dark hole. Then he rose from the dead and went back to heaven to be with God."

(Matio 10)

"Jesus died on the cross for all us kids. He woke and went to heaven three days later. Easter means we can go to heaven and be with Jesus because I love Him."

The Bible is a special message of good news, joy, and salvation, and having a more positive outlook, I believe, will help spread the gospel. Christian believers have an important role to fill in demonstrating biblical values.

As AOTS members working together, we must extend the promise and hope of our Christian love into many more hearts by continuing to help proclaim God's Word.

May all United Church AOTS Men be inspired to reach out to the hurting and needy souls with the unconditional love of Jesus Christ this Easter season.

"His Word is a leap that gives light wherever we walk."(Psalm 119:105)

Devotional by
Gil Reashore
Chair
National AOTS Spiritual Life and Leadership

**One More Thing
Nothing in common?**

Recently a new club decided to go its own way when the National could not approve a fee per membership to be paid to the individual organizing the club.

It was requested that no more Handshakes be sent because they claimed to have nothing in common with AOTS. The last time we looked we all worshipped the same God and like Christ we are

As One That Serves.

**Wont' You Join Us ?
Individual Membership
and Renewals Below**

Mail to
Ken Lane
44 Paris Drive
Elliot Lake, Ont. P5A 2L9

**Application For Individual Membership
with the National Association of United Church Men's Clubs**

Surname	First Name	Initials	Nick Name
Apartment No. R.R. # Street			
City-Town-Village	Province		Postal Code
Church	Phone Area Code	Residence	Code Office
Occupation	Retired From		Age

The Annual Fee is \$15.00 payable upon application and yearly thereafter in January